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May 7, 2004

**CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT NO. 91 7108 2133 3930 9232 4431  
and FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

Bradley Smith, Chairman  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 5447

Dear Mr. Smith:

By this letter, the Missouri Republican State Committee and its Treasurer, Harvey Tettlebaum, request an additional twenty (20) days to respond to your April 29, 2004 letter regarding MUR 5447. The Missouri Republican State Committee – Federal Committee and Harvey M. Tettlebaum received the letter and attachments on May 4, 2004. The Missouri Republican State Committee would like to present additional factual and legal evidence to persuade the Federal Election Commission not to proceed with this matter, or to alter the terms of the proposed Conciliation Agreement. It will take more than twenty days for the Missouri Republican State Committee to marshal these matters. The Republican State Committee employee who prepared the Committee's report and handled its finances during 1999 and 2000 and who interacted with the FEC during the audit is no longer employed by the Committee. Thus, preparation of materials will take longer than normal. We believe that this circumstance constitutes good cause for an extension.

In addition, your letter states that "[i]n the absence of additional information, the Commission may find probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred and proceed with conciliation." This statement appears inconsistent with the procedures that were provided to us by the General Counsel's Office. Those procedures state that a respondent initially has fifteen days to respond to a reason to believe finding. Then, before the Commission proceeds to a probable cause finding, both General Counsel and the respondent are allowed to submit briefs to the Commission. The implication that the Commission can proceed directly to a probable cause finding without the submission of briefs is inconsistent with these procedures. Please clarify your meaning for us.

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COUNSEL

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Bradley Smith, Chairman  
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May 7, 2004  
Page 2

We hope, with the information that we provide you, that we will be able to conciliate this matter without additional adverse proceedings. Please advise us of your decision on our request for an extension and clarify the procedural status of this case at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



THOMAS D. VAUGHN

TDV:RLH:cw

cc: Brant Levine (via facsimile transmission)  
Jeff Buker (via hand delivery)  
Harvey M. Tettlebaum